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TRIBUTE TO LEO LEVIN

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It was my good fortune during my first year as Chief Justice to have the benefit of Leo Levin's counsel. As Director of the Federal Judicial Center (FJC), Leo was always available to advise me on crucial issues having to do with the administration of justice in our federal courts. I am therefore especially pleased to join the distinguished authors who have contributed essays to these pages in honor of Leo Levin.

Professor Levin's distinguished career as a scholar and teacher of law has been punctuated by important public service to our legal system. He has served as Director of the Appellate Court Revision System and head of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He was a key organizer of the 1976 conference on popular dissatisfaction with the administration of justice known as the Pound Conference. Through his work on the conference, he helped to set the terms of

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the dialogue for the reform of our system of justice for the final quarter of this century. The following were among the crucial ideas that emerged from the conference: the need to police and deter litigation abuses, to develop alternative dispute resolution, and to begin focusing on victims' rights. The proceedings published under Professor Levin's co-editorship stand today not merely as an important historical record but as a useful starting point for reflection on ways we can continue improving our legal system.

Professor Levin assumed the Directorship of the FJC in 1977, ten years after its creation by Congress. He was the first Director who had not been a judge or justice. The FJC's mandate is to improve the quality of justice in the United States by conducting research and contributing to the continuing education of judges and others in the federal legal system. As Chief Justice, I have had the honor of serving as Chairman of its Board. Like others who have been connected with the FJC, I am aware of just how effectively the FJC pursued its goals under Leo Levin's eminent leadership. His profound commitment to educational excellence was as evident in his work at the FJC as it was—and is—at the University of Pennsylvania. Among his lasting contributions was the full integration of academics into the educational and research activities of the FJC.

Justice Holmes once said—in a remark which Professor Levin himself has had occasion to quote—that “the business of a law school is not sufficiently described when you merely say that it is to teach law, or to make lawyers. It is to teach law in the grand manner, and to make great lawyers.”¹ Leo Levin saw the FJC as a place that pursued its educational and research programs “in the grand manner.” His commitment was to a judiciary composed of “great judges.” Armed with this vision and commitment, he made the FJC prosper during a period in which budgetary cutbacks were combined with the expansion of the judicial system.

¹ O.W. Holmes, *The Use of Law Schools*, in COLLECTED LEGAL PAPERS 35, 37 (1920) (oration before the Harvard Law School Association (Nov. 5, 1886)).